DAMES & MOORE A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
6 COMMERCE DRIVE, CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY 07016-1101 (201) 272-8300

August 7, 1987

Chief, Site Investigation and Compliance Branch
Emergency and Remedial Rseponse Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

Attention: SCP - Carlstadt Project Officer

Dear Sir:

Attached is the July, 1987 Progress Report for RI/FS project at the SCP Carlstadt site. This report has been prepared by Dames & Moore, on behalf of the Committee representing the Respondents named in the Administrative Order on Consent No. II CERCLA-50114, in accordance with Paragraph 28B of the Order.

Very truly yours,

DAMES & MOORE

Gerard M. Coscia

Gerard M. Coscia, P.E.
Project Manager

GMC/jhm
Attachment

cc: Chief, Superfund Branch
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Room 437
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

003503

ATTACHMENT 1

SCP RI/FS PROGRESS REPORT — JULY 1987

PROGRESS AND STATUS

1. Phase I field work was completed on July 10:

   a. The installation of MW-7S/7D and shallow soil sampling at six additional locations completed the drilling program.

   b. Seventeen soil samples plus one duplicate were collected for chemical analysis. One undisturbed sample of clay was collected from MW-7D for permeability testing.

   c. The three deep wells were developed, along with shallow well MW-7S, which had incorrectly been reported as developed in the June 1987 Progress Report.

   d. Water level recorders were installed on MW-5S/5D and a stillwell was installed on the Gotham Parkway Bridge over Peach Island Creek.

   e. Slug tests were completed on five of the seven shallow wells. Wells MW-3S and MW-7S were deferred until Phase II.

2. Phase II field work was initiated on July 20 and completed on July 27:

   a. Eight sediment samples plus one duplicate were collected from Peach Island Creek.

   b. Four water samples were collected from Peach Island Creek, representing sample collection after a storm.

   c. Ten water samples plus one duplicate were collected from the monitor wells.

   d. No ground water seeps were evident during this phase, and thus no samples were collected.

   e. Slug tests were completed on MW-3S and MW-7S.

3. No comments on the geophysical data had been received from the EPA by July 31.

4. The technical issues discussed in the June 1987 Progress Report were addressed in Revision 2 to the Project Operations Plan and transmitted to the EPA on July 2. The transmittal requested written EPA approval of the revisions, and this had not been received as of July 31. EPA had previously given verbal approval to these revisions, including all monitor well locations.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

1. Difficulties were encountered in sampling the sediment at Station 2 (150 feet downstream of the SCP site). The top of the sediment was 2.5 feet below water, and the sampler was pushed to a depth of 7 feet with no recovery on three separate attempts. Thus, at least 4.5 feet of soft, slurry-like sediment was present at mid-channel. This condition existed only at Station 2, which is located between two culverts across Peach Island Creek. One culvert is for the Gotham Parkway Crossing, and the second, approximately 300 feet downstream of the SCP site, consists of four pipes passing beneath an earthen embankment. The reach of Peach Island Creek between these two culverts appears to act as a detention basin. In order to obtain a sediment sample, the sampling location was moved to within 6 feet of the north bank of the Creek. Only 12 inches of sediment was recovered, so the second sample was taken from 6 to 12 inches instead of 12 to 18 inches. Both the sampling location and the sampling interval were modified with the concurrence of the EPA on-site representative.

2. Due to laboratory error, the holding time for extractables (basic/neutral/acid) was exceeded by three days on the stream water sample from Station 2 (ten days instead of seven until extraction). Since all four stream water samples were collected during the same low tide after a storm, resampling Station 2 was rejected as an option because the analytical results would not correlate with the other three stations. It was decided, with EPA's concurrence, to analyze the existing sample to get at least an indication of what may be present in the stream. The extractable data will not be considered absolute by the EPA. The EPA requested that analysis for the second round of water sampling at Station 2 contain full extractables in addition to any target parameters.

3. Well purging prior to sampling was modified at three low-yielding wells. The POP required purging at least three well casing volumes of water before sampling. The standard practice, as well as EPA policy for purging low-yielding wells, is to pump them dry and then sample after the wells recover. Well MW-3S ran dry after purging 1.0 casing volumes, well MW-7S ran dry after purging 2.3 casing volumes, and well MW-7D ran dry after purging 1.6 casing volumes. A revision to the POP will be prepared to reflect this modification.

SCHEDULE

Based on the scheduled June 1 start date for the Phase I field work, the project is two weeks behind schedule.

Completetion of Phase I field work occurred on July 10 (29 field days versus 20 planned field days, excluding the July 3 holiday). This represents an additional two-day schedule slippage when compared with the June 1987 Progress Report. This slippage is the result of the EPA requirements to collect drilling fluids from MW-7D and development water from MW-5D and MW-7D.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES — AUGUST 1987

1. Review Phase II analytical results on ground and surface water samples and, in conjunction with the EPA, select targeted parameters for the Phase III samples (second round of water samples).

2. Evaluate slug test data.

3. Complete permeability tests on the three undisturbed clay samples.

4. Prepare boring logs, well construction details, and other field data for inclusion into the RI report.